

## LOCAL WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PILOT PROJECTS

### BACKGROUND

In March, EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin announced \$300,000 in contractor support to help states and the District of Columbia engage local partners in the development of Watershed Implementation Plans to reduce nutrients and sediment that are impairing our waters. We have an unprecedented opportunity to restore local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. This funding is on top of the additional \$11.2 million in Fiscal Year 2010 grants to states and the District – more than double the prior year's funding levels – to improve permitting, enforcement and other key regulatory activities that increase accountability for reducing water pollution, and the \$400,000 in contractor support to help states and the District develop their Watershed Implementation Plans.

EPA recognizes the need to draw on the best ideas from our counties, cities, towns, conservation districts, watershed organizations, citizens, and state and federal agencies in order to restore local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. The Agency also believes that the Watershed Implementation Plans will benefit greatly from the input of those partners closest to the challenges and solutions. The following descriptions summarize the projects receiving technical assistance under this pilot initiative. Some project descriptions may evolve over time as the projects get underway. For additional information, please contact Ms. Katherine W. Antos, [antos.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:antos.katherine@epa.gov), or the contacts provided below.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

**Name of project:** Controlling Stormwater from Federal Facilities

**Location:** District of Columbia

**State and local Contacts:**

Dr. Hamid Karimi (District Department of the Environment) – [Hamid.Karimi@dc.gov](mailto:Hamid.Karimi@dc.gov)

Dr. Monir Chowdhury (District Department of the Environment) –

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**Description:**

The District would like to utilize EPA's support on a pilot project to work with its Federal partners to develop measurable processes to reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. DDOE would like to bring together selected federal agencies to expedite implementation of the recent EISA law in DC (which requires improved stormwater management on Federal facilities), while identifying and showcasing state of the art practices to reduce or mitigate urban stormwater runoff. Deliverables include: a list of planned capital projects with associated federal agency sponsors and estimated contributions/potions to DC target load to be included in the WIP; a list of capital projects with associated federal agency sponsors that incorporate stormwater management practices to fulfill EISA compliance by January 1, 2012, and a process established by which Federal facilities will inform the District of any BMPs or LIDs they commit to install, along with a maintenance schedule.

**Name of project:** Pilot to Assess Issues and Processes and Develop a Generalized Template for Phase II WIPs in the State of Maryland

**Location:** Anne Arundel and Caroline Counties, Maryland

**State and local Contacts:**

Richard Eskin (Maryland Department of the Environment) – [reskin@mde.state.md.us](mailto:reskin@mde.state.md.us)

Jeff Horan (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) – [jhoran@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jhoran@dnr.state.md.us)

Ron Bowen (Anne Arundel County) – [rbowen@aacounty.org](mailto:rbowen@aacounty.org)

Kathleen Freeman (Caroline County) – [kfreeman@co.caroline.md.us](mailto:kfreeman@co.caroline.md.us)

**Description:**

This project has begun development of Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) with two counties of different types of government, land use, and demographics as a pilot study to determine the challenges that will be faced in development of WIPs for the remainder of Maryland. Because local authority and local actions with respect to historical land use, development and future growth on the urban side and agricultural controls on the rural side are critical to the goal, extensive participation by local interests, including county, municipal and town governments, soil conservation districts, along with the state highway administration, state and federal facilities is essential as is participation by privately owned commercial and industrial properties. The basic approach is to meet and share information and concerns, and develop quantitative data based on existing programs, allocations, and projections to determine the gap. Deliverables include: a template, checklist or decision tree for negotiating the allocation process that can be applied to other jurisdictions and a draft Phase II WIP for Anne Arundel and Caroline Counties. We have met twice with both counties as of mid-April, and once additionally with Anne Arundel County (the more urbanized county). Current effort is on determining current program capacity for further development of the gap analysis. Caroline County is reluctant to proceed until allocations are available for review. Next step with AA County is to transition from gap analysis to strategies and approaches to close the gap.

**Name of project:** Pilot Project in Prince William County Virginia

**Location:** Prince William County, Virginia

**State and local Contacts:**

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Madan Mohan (Prince William County) – [mmohan@pwcgov.org](mailto:mmohan@pwcgov.org)

Patricia Dietz (Prince William County) – [pdietz@pwcgov.org](mailto:pdietz@pwcgov.org)

**Description: Partners, goal, and how the state will use outcomes**

The Watershed Management Branch of the Prince William County Public Works Department will define and test a local Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) in three phases: (1) review and evaluate existing water quality data in order to assess various methods to fairly assign pollution reduction loads among various stakeholder groups, (2) conduct a series of discussion with various stakeholders who have been engaged in this process with the County previously on the water quality monitoring data to solicit their input on the proposed pollution reduction data and methods, and (3) identify and perform a cost analysis of appropriate actions and strategies for the stakeholders to undertake in order to achieve the proposed pollutant reduction scenario. This process would engage an extensive partnership including the Watershed Management Branch of the Prince William County Public Works Department, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Prince William County Building and Development Group, Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory, Quantico Marine Corps Base, various waste water utilities, Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Prince William Conservation Alliance as well as Homeowners Associations and the local media.

**Name of project:** Rivanna Regional Pilot Project for Chesapeake Bay TMDL

**Location:** Service area of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District (City of Charlottesville, counties of Greene, Albemarle, Louisa, Nelson, Fluvanna), Virginia

**State and local Contacts:**

Susan Block (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation) –

[Susan.block@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:Susan.block@dcv.virginia.gov)

Rick Hill (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation) –

[Rick.Hill@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:Rick.Hill@dcv.virginia.gov)

Leslie Middleton (Rivanna River Basin Commission) – [middleton@rivannariverbasin.org](mailto:middleton@rivannariverbasin.org)

**Description:**

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) will utilize local water quality and land use data coupled with a local stakeholder process to identify additional local data needs, identify resource gaps, and develop pollution reduction strategies across multiple local government boundaries and overlapping service areas. RRBC will work with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Culpeper SWCD, and the local StreamWatch program. Deliverables include: lessons learned during a stakeholder driven process as the Bay-wide TMDL is generated; evaluation of the transferability of this process to other piedmont watersheds; design of long-term local monitoring program to assess effectiveness of implementation plan between 2011-2025; locally derived capacity evaluation and resource gap analysis; locally derived pollution reduction strategies; and locally designed stakeholder engagement process with documentation of lessons learned and transferability.

**Name of project:** Region 9 Watershed Implementation Plan Pilot Project

**Location:** Jefferson, Morgan, and Berkeley Counties, West Virginia and municipalities

**State and local Contacts:**

Carol Crabtree (Region 9) – [ccrabtree@region9wv.org](mailto:ccrabtree@region9wv.org)

Alana Hartman (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Potomac Basin Coordinator) – [Alana.C.Hartman@wv.gov](mailto:Alana.C.Hartman@wv.gov)

Matt Monroe (West Virginia Department of Agriculture) – [mmonroe@ag.state.wv.us](mailto:mmonroe@ag.state.wv.us)

Randolph Sovic (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection) –

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Teresa Koon (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection) –

[Teresa.M.Koon@wv.gov](mailto:Teresa.M.Koon@wv.gov)

**Description:**

Region 9 plans to develop a regional approach to cost effectively address the implications of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy and the anticipated Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan counties. The comprehensive strategy would involve the development of three work groups (point sources, non-point sources, economic development) and an overall advisory committee which would consist of key members from all work groups. The goal of the strategy is to understand efforts in each affected sectors and determine how the most nutrients can be reduced for the lowest cost. The information gained on the potential nutrient reductions, level of effort necessary and interest shown and cost evaluation will be critical for the WV DEP in creating a Watershed Implementation Plan.

**Name of project:** Non-Agricultural Sector Support for the Conewago Creek Collaborative Conservation Initiative

**Location:** Conewago Creek Watershed, located in Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania

**State and local Contacts:**

Matt Royer (Tri-County Conewago Creek Association) – [mroyer@psu.edu](mailto:mroyer@psu.edu)<sup>1</sup>

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Penn State Cooperative Extension) – [kls386@psu.edu](mailto:kls386@psu.edu)

Steve Taglang (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) – [staglang@state.pa.us](mailto:staglang@state.pa.us)

**Description:**

This local pilot project draws upon the Conewago Initiative, comprised of Tri-County Conewago Creek Association; Dauphin-, Lancaster-, and Lebanon County Conservation Districts; Penn State Cooperative Extension; PA Department of Environmental Protection; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and other public and private sector entities to enhance work underway in the Conewago Creek watershed. The project will identify and assess loads and prioritize implementation opportunities for the non-agricultural sectors, including strategies for mitigating these sources. The assessment will augment the existing, 2006 Conewago Creek Restoration Plan (the local WIP) by identifying the nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads that can be reduced from non-agricultural implementation priorities, contributing toward meeting local TMDL goals. The additions are expected to provide guidance on municipal and residential design options for load reductions through on-lot (residential and commercial) implementation/retrofits (i.e. bio-retention, rain gardens, water conservation, etc.) for the highest priority sites.

**Name of project:** Project to support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan for New York State

**Location:** Chemung River model segment upstream of Seeley Creek in Chemung County

**State and local Contacts:**

Janet Thigpen (Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board) – [jthigpen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:jthigpen@co.chemung.ny.us)

James Curatolo (Susquehanna River Basin Commission) – [jac3@htva.net](mailto:jac3@htva.net)

Ron Entringer (NY Department of Environmental Control) – [raentrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:raentrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Edward Reilly (NY Department of Environmental Control)– [exreilly@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:exreilly@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**Description:**

The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STCRPDB) is working with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to develop the state's Watershed Implementation Plan. This project will provide modeling and data analysis assistance in a partially urbanized area to evaluate the nutrient and sediment reduction that would result from effective implementation of stormwater management practices required in MS4 and Construction stormwater permits and the associated implementation costs. Also, it will evaluate the incremental benefits and costs associated with going beyond current permit requirements. Deliverables include: documentation of scenario assumptions, model results for each scenario, and recommendations concerning the achievability and cost-effectiveness of each and guidance and assistance as warranted integrating these BMPs into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. The results of this Local Pilot Project will provide guidance for developing the NYS Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan and for improving local MS4 Stormwater Management Programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Email address beginning May 17, 2010